

Name games help children begin to notice that:

- Names are made up of letters.
- Names are always written the same way.
- You can find your name by looking for the first letter.

The games below should be played using just a few names each day. If all names are used at one time, the game becomes too long and children will lose interest.

#### **Game 1 - Busy, Busy Bumble Bee**

Show a child a name card. Say a rhyme, such as, "Busy, busy bumble bee, can you find this name for me?" The child then takes the card, matches it to the name on the Letter Wall, and tells whose name it is.

#### **Game 2 - Name Detective**

Choose a name. Give children clues to help them guess the name.

Examples:

- I am thinking of someone's name.
- It is a boy in our class.
- His name begins with the sound /t/.
- His name has six letters.
- Can you guess his name? Yes! It's Thomas!

#### **Game 3 - Missing Names**

Remove some of the children's names from the Letter Wall. Ask them to put them back by matching the initial letters.

#### **Game 4 - Name Chant**

Chant the following in a rap-like rhythm: "If your name starts with *b*, march up there and touch that *b*. If your name starts with *n*, march up there and touch that *n*!"

As the children become familiar with the chant, you may change the way children go to the Letter Wall: they may walk, skip, jump, tiptoe, etc.